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L20: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

Sep 23, 2003

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6625648 B1

TITLE: Methods, systems and computer program products for network performance testing through active endpoint pair based testing and passive application monitoring

Detailed Description Text (25):

RAS agent 60 is responsible for starting all performance monitoring system processes of console node 20 and monitoring their status. If any process agent fails abnormally, the RAS agent 60 restarts the failed agent. RAS agent 60 provides further reliability, availability and serviceability capability to the systems of the present invention. RAS agent 60 is preferably responsible for starting the other agents illustrated in FIG. 3, monitoring the ongoing operations of the other agents and restarting agents when they fail. RAS agent 60 may also be responsible for generating error message traps if continued failures occur even after restarts. As an additional feature, the RAS agent 60 may provide for restart of all system agents 52-70 illustrated in FIG. 3 on a periodic basis, such as weekly, to reduce error conditions. RAS agent 60 may also initiate full system restarts (i.e., including, for example, the operating system). RAS agent 60 may further provide for generating error messages and/or SNMP traps when disk space for object database 50 goes below minimum levels.

Detailed Description Text (33):

Endpoint configuration agent 66 may also monitor the status of various endpoint nodes 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 by computing a reporting period for each endpoint node 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 based on the test schedules and placing appropriate information in object database 50 to indicate to other agents when network performance test results should be expected from particular endpoint nodes 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and associated connections. Endpoint configuration agent 66 may further detect and report when an endpoint pair 22, 24 is invalid if an individual one of the endpoint pair 22, 24 reports in with an indication that it is unable to establish a connection with its established endpoint pair partner for a particular connection.

Detailed Description Text (36):

Also shown in FIG. 3 is control configuration agent 70. As illustrated by the dotted line used for control configuration agent 70 in FIG. 3, it is preferred that this agent be executed remotely from the system on which object database 50 resides. This allows the actual database hardware of console node 20 to be placed in a secure area with remote user access to change system parameters. Preferably, control configuration agent 70 is provided as a Java application executing on a remote device in communication with console node 20. As will be described more fully herein with respect to the operations of the present invention, the control configuration agent 70 can provide for input of configuration information for various aspects of test operations according to the present invention such as definition of endpoints and endpoint pairs, thresholds, actions, schedules, test scripts, department and location definitions, security protocols, reporting procedures, SNMP definition, system defaults and user defaults. Control configuration agent 70 further may provide for input of status change requests with respect to various endpoint nodes 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 or endpoint pairs 22, 24 such

as taking a particular endpoint node 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 off of active status.

Detailed Description Text (37):

While illustrated in FIG. 3 as connected directly to object database 50, changes to the object database 50 may not be directly implemented by control configuration agent 70. Rather, GUI support agent 58 can provide an interface allowing changes to be implemented based on requests from control configuration agent 70, on an asynchronous basis, as various other agents perform their associated functions to change the status of devices and protocols within the network performance test schedules. Accordingly, the direct connection of control configuration agent 70 to object database 50 illustrates the placement of information on the database which may then be retrieved by GUI support agent 58 for processing and implementation. As will be described later herein, in one aspect of the present invention, a unique approach is provided for handling the asynchronous state transitions between requested changes and implementation of the changes across the affected nodes of the computer network 12.

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